

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS):

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

As Nisantasi University, we always follow and support EU Modernisation and Internationalisation Agenda for Higher Education and the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education has always been a guide for our university to achieve its goals and plans. Our university adopts an education model that integrates technology, supports research and development, focuses on developing innovative products, values entrepreneurship, prioritises business models that can be transferred to digital platforms, and is open to international collaborations. Our objective is based on raising a generation that takes advantage of digital technology, can meet the needs of a world equipped with the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence, and play an important role in the professions of the future. Furthermore, with the project-based education model we're planning to raise a generation that can produce information based on positive science, think analytically and critically, evaluate the innovations and opportunities that the technological revolution will bring to social life and business life and a generation that has the skills required by a world integrated with digitalising automation systems and robotic technologies, adapts to the professions of the future, and aims to learn lifelong. In this regard, our core values are: being student-oriented, being against all kinds of discrimination, being original and creative in education, teaching and research, being transparent and having people-oriented management, being international and acting in line with EU Agenda for Higher Education. For us, stakeholder participation is crucial in the scope of our policy in order to achieve our goals. In this context, our academic staff, students, student clubs and universities with which we have bilateral agreements are considered as our most important stakeholders. Our other stakeholders are candidate students, administrative staff, other employees, professionals, private and public institutions, non-governmental organizations, professional associations that cooperate in exchange programs. The policy of our university has been designed to encourage quality culture, as well as to develop mechanisms for sustainable quality and process development. Nişantaşı University regularly reviews its success mechanism, and monitors that all of these follow the goals pursued and continue to meet the needs of stakeholders. For this purpose, efforts are made to take steps to make improvements or take measures by applying satisfaction survey to both administrative and academic staff and students. In addition to satisfaction surveys, collaborations with experts and students and feedback from projects are also considered in the evaluations. In this context, professionals and their opinions are indispensable in terms of communication with stakeholders in quality processes. Nisantasi University would like to attract international students especially individuals with fewer opportunities and make it sustainable. Apart from the departments whose education language is English, the curriculum of the departments with Turkish education language is carried out mainly in English language courses (speaking, writing and English for special purposes). The main purpose of this arrangement is to increase the international competition of our students and support them to learn new languages. On the other hand, double major and minor programs are implemented in our University in accordance with the regulations on transfer between associate and undergraduate programs, double major, minor, and inter-institutional credit transfer in order to train our students in different fields in order to gain competitive advantage in business life. Our students studying in undergraduate programs can receive a second degree diploma by taking the courses of another undergraduate program simultaneously with the Double Major Program application. In addition, students enrolled in an undergraduate program can take some courses simultaneously from another undergraduate program curriculum and obtain a certificate with a Minor Program. Our NeoTech Campus is a barrier-free campus and is becoming more and more barrier-free by the needs of disabled students. Within this scope, the Disability Free Life Unit was established, and with the contributions of our disabled students, faculty members and administrative staff, the difficulties that they might face in their academic and social lives within the campus were identified, solutions were found and necessary arrangements were made. We offer pedestrian roads and voice guidance applications specially designed for the visually impaired, beacon sound system placed on the campus for the hearing impaired, and access to all floors and classrooms by elevator for physically disabled students. In addition, carrying out activities to raise awareness about disability is among the objectives of our Barrier-Free Living Unit because we want all of our students to continue their education with the same comfort and ease. Our plans include increasing the number of international students, international faculty members, international degrees, joint degrees, exchange programs and international projects. It is also one of our goals to ensure that our academics and students benefit from the support given to academic projects developed within our university and we will regularly monitor and evaluate our international activities. Thus, our students can have the opportunity to use the concrete outputs of the education they receive at home and abroad.

With the technological infrastructure and digital education setup of our university, we aim to go beyond the age in education, science and technology with its mission and to prepare new generations for the future. With the help of our international office and department coordinators, we will encourage candidate students at higher education fairs, and our current students and staff about student and staff mobility, and we will inform the institutions that we visit about Erasmus activities. We will not only try to find partners from undergraduate programs but also from participant and non-participant countries for postgraduate programs. So far we have made 82 Erasmus agreements with universities from 18 countries and we are planning to develop these existing partnerships and extend their framework to reach the objectives of the EU Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education. We will also be looking for partners with HEIs in participating countries, to develop relationships and expand our knowledge and experience. In both distance education and on-campus education, we will use new information and communication technologies in an innovative way to enrich teaching and improve student experience. During the global pandemic we have seen that our distant education system is quite successful and our efforts are continuing to make our distant education system even better.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

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The cooperation projects such as Coding All Together, Cultural Bridges 1-2, and E+Media 4 Youth we have designed so far are the guarantee of what we will do after the award of the ECHE. As Nisantasi University we are committed to improve quality, innovation excellence and internationalization through such projects. We also plan to support the EU's external activities and support language education and intercultural awareness. In addition to promoting participation in dialogue and solidarity, including those with fewer opportunities, we aim to increase the capacity of the European Union to support young people. Also within the framework of student and staff mobility, students and staff will be promoted to take part in across Europe to support them to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies in order to improve their personal development, their participation as community respectful and active citizens, and their employability. As stated above, we aim to increase the awareness and understanding of other cultures by increasing the foreign language proficiency by this way, equality and diversity, are also promoted. In addition, modernization and internationalization of non-EU countries will be promoted and supported in order to speed up the development process of partner countries.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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As Nişantaşı University, we plan to make arrangements that will improve our university's ability to attract international students, become a university integrated with Erasmus Charter for Higher Education and make it sustainable. We are committed to increase our number of students and staff participating in Erasmus exchange programs by 20% between 2021-2027, make our university more recognizable in international education and scientific activities by forming a strong international network. We are also committed to increase the number of international joint scientific activities and mobilities between 2021-2025 and to carry out all Erasmus mobilities through the online platform by 2021. Erasmus Without Paper is one of the projects that we follow closely. In this regard, we encourage the training of entrepreneurial graduates in line with the needs of the country and the region by planning and organizing certificate programs in the field of entrepreneurship during their studentship in order to train graduates who can reconcile national and universal values, think critically, gain creativity and entrepreneurship spirit and adapt to change.